

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IR, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT VISITS TEHRAN

SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMAD HASSAN AL- ZAYYAT
ARRIVED IN TEHRAN MARCH 19 FOR A FOUR DAY VISIT AMID SIGNS OF
IMPROVED IRANIAN- EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. ZAYYAT SEEKS IRANIAN SUPPORT
IN ARAB- ISRAEL CONTEXT WHILE IRANIANS SEE VISIT IN BROADER TERMS
OF BILATERAL IRANIAN- EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMAD HASSAN AL - ZAYYAT ACCOMPANIED
BY A LARGE DELEGATION, ARRIVED IN TEHRAN MARCH 19 FOR A FOUR DAY
VISIT. AIRPORT WELCOME OF ZAYYAT BY FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI,
FRONT PAGE TREATMENT OF EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER' S ARRIVAL AND
FRIENDLY EDITORIALS IN TEHRAN PRESS TESTIFY TO SIGNIFICANCE
GOI IS ASSIGNING TO VISIT. ZAYYAT IS TO BE RECEIVED BY SHAH
AND WILL HAVE SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH KHALATBARI AND PRIME
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MINISTER HOVEYDA. AN AGREEMENT ON IRANIAN- EGYPTIAN CULTURAL EXCHANGES WILL BE INITIALED BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT.

2. NEWSPAPERS NOTE CORRECTLY THAT ZAYYAT WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN THIS CONNECTION, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS STRESS STRONG IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR ARAB POSITION RE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM ARAB TERRITORIES. IRANIAN STAND ON WITHDRAWAL PORTRAYED AS CATEGORICAL AND OF LONG DURATION.

3. GENERALLY FRIENDLY TONE OF MEDIA TREATMENT OF VISIT EXTENDS TO THE PRESENCE OF ZAYYAT HIMSELF, WHO SERVED IN TEHRAN IN 1950' S AND WHO IS SAID TO SPEAK EXCELLENT PERSIAN. IRANIAN- EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP IS DESCRIBED AS EXTENDING BEYOND TEMPORARY TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (I. E. THE ARAB- ISRAEL DISPUTE). EGYPT AND IRAN ARE VIEWED AS TWO OF THE WORLD' S LARGEST AND MOST CULTURALLY ADVANCED ISLAMIC NATIONS. MAIN CURRENTS OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT AND SCHOLARSHIP ARE SAID TO HAVE EMANATED FROM CAIRO AND TEHRAN WHILE ROLE OF ISLAM IN A MODERNIZING WORLD CAN BEST BE REDEFINED IN IRAN AND EGYPT. TWO SIDES ARE SEEN AS BEING ABLE TO RENDER VALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO EACH OTHER BOTH INTELLECTUALLY AND MATERIALLY.

4. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERICS OF VISIT ARE VERY WARM AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND HARD FEELING CHARACTERIZING EARLIER YEARS ARE BEING GRACIOUSLY OVERLOOKED. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT THE ZAYYAT VISIT WILL DO VERY MUCH TO IMPROVE THE CURRENTLY BAD RELATIONS BETWEEN TEHRAN AND BAGHDAD.
HELMS

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TEHRAN01784
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730336/aaaaifkt.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971222
Subject: EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT VISITS TEHRAN
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IR
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

